

# Investigate, Inquire, and Imagine

## GATHERING FACTS

### Interpret: FINDING MEANING

- 1a. What does Leonard Mead like to do at night?  
How does he learn to do to be less visible?
- 1b. Why does Leonard want to avoid drawing attention to himself? Why are the streets deserted?
- 2a. What is Leonard Mead's profession? What reasons does Leonard give for walking?
- 2b. Why does the police car say he has no profession? Why does the police car find Leonard's reasons unbelievable? What might have helped him?
- 3a. What does the police car do after finding Leonard? Where does it take him?
- 3b. How is Leonard's house different from those around it? Why is Leonard seen as possessing "regressive tendencies"?

## TAKING THINGS APART

### Synthesize: BRINGING THINGS TOGETHER

- 4a. What is crime ebbing in this large city?
- 4b. What are the people in this city lacking? What does Leonard have that they do not?

## MAKING JUDGMENTS

### Extend: CONNECTING IDEAS

- 5a. What comment might Bradbury be making about society? How valid is this comment?
- 5b. Now that we have entered the twenty-first century, do you think Bradbury is accurate with some of his predictions and warnings? In what ways are his predictions true? In what ways have his predictions not yet come to pass?

# Understanding Literature

Review the definition for **mood** in the Handbook of Literary Terms. The writer can evoke in the reader an emotional response—such as fear, discomfort, longing, or anticipation—by writing with descriptive language and sensory details. To what does the author compare the city in the second paragraph? What kind of mood does this create?

Review the definition for **setting** and the sensory details chart you made for Literary Tools in the Handbook. Writers create setting by various means. In fiction, setting is most often revealed by the description of such elements as landscape, scenery, building, furniture, clothing, the weather, and the season. Where and when is this story set? What is strange about this place?

"THE PEDESTRIAN" 963

## ANSWERS TO INVESTIGATE, INQUIRE, AND IMAGINE

### RECALL

- 1a. Leonard Mead likes to walk. He has learned to wear sneakers so that dogs will not hear him and bark at him.
- 2a. He is a writer. His reasons for walking are to get some air and to see things.
- 3a. The police car tells Leonard to get in. It takes him to the Psychiatric Center for Research on Regressive Tendencies.

### INTERPRET

- 1a. *Responses will vary.* He wants to avoid drawing attention to himself because the dogs would make noise, people would look out at him, and entire streets would be startled at the sight of him. The streets are deserted because everyone is indoors watching television.
- 2b. The police car says that Leonard has no profession because now that people watch television rather than read, a person cannot earn a living as a writer. It doesn't find his reasons for walking believable because it assumes that the air conditioner in his home should provide all the air he needs and that his viewing screen should provide everything he would want to see. If Leonard were married, an alibi offered by his wife might have helped him stay out of trouble.
- 3b. Leonard's house is well lit, while the others are dark. Leonard is seen as having "regressive tendencies" because he wants to be outside in the air and does not want to watch television.

### ANALYZE

- 4a. Crime is ebbing, or decreasing, because people in the city spend all their time either going to work, working, or watching television.

### SYNTHESIZE

- 4b. People in the city lack contact with the natural world and the open air. They are also lacking the imagination and/or individualism to choose their own form of entertainment. Leonard has an experience of life apart from the viewing screen.

### EVALUATE

- 5a. Bradbury might be pointing out that society is increasingly satisfied with artificial, electronic entertainment and is losing touch



## ANSWERS TO INVESTIGATE, INQUIRE, AND IMAGINE (CONT.)

as the cause for increased crime. Also, because people do spend so much time in nonphysical activities, such as walking, jogging, in-